20th December 1954]

Hunger-strike by Tamil convicts in Cannanore Central Jail.

* 451 *Q.*—Sri K. C. GOPALAN UNNI: Will the Hon. the Minister for Finance be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether it is a fact that some Tamil convicted prisoners in Cannanore Central Jail in Malabar were on hunger-strike from 12th July 1954, and if so, for how many days;

(*b*) if so, the reasons therefor;

(*c*) whether the prisoners gave notice of their intention to the Government before they went on hunger-strike; and

(*d*) if so, what action the Government took to prevent the hunger-strike?

The Hon. Sri C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" (*a*) Yes. For three days.

" (*b*) The convicts resorted to hunger-strike because the Inspector-General of Prisons refused to transfer them to other jails, as requested by them.

" (*c*) No.

" (*d*) In view of the answer to clause (*c*) above, does not arise."

Sri S. RAMALINGAM :—" கைதிகளை அவரவர்களின் சொந்த ஜில்லாக்களிலுள்ள ஜெயில்களில் வைக்கவேண்டுமென்று ஜெயில் கமிட்டி ரிப்போர்ட்டில் சிபார்சு செய்யப்பட்டிருக்கிறது. அந்தப்பிரகாரம் தமிழ் நாட்டுக் கைதிகளை அவர்களது சொந்த நாட்டு ஜெயிலில் வைக்காமல் கண்ணனூர் ஜெயிலில் ஏன் வைத்திருக்கிறார்கள்?"

The Hon. Sri C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" Sir, we have to take into account the accommodation available in the various jails and according to that we have to distribute the convicted persons."

Sri V. BALAKRISHNAN :—" May I know whether prisoners are convicted in Tamilnad and are transported to jails in Malabar? "

The Hon. Sri C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" They were convicted in the Madras State and they are kept in the Madras State."

Sri K. VINAYAKAM :—" Arising out of the reply given by the Hon. Minister that the availability of accommodation has got to be taken into consideration, while distributing the prisoners, are we to understand that the Tamilnad prisoners under reference did not find a place in Tamilnad jails? "

The Hon. Sri C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" Sir, it is not a question of Tamil prisoners or Canarese prisoners or Malayalam prisoners. They are prisoners of this State. We have, therefore, to take into consideration the entire position and then distribute them in the various prisons."